

Remarks:

Claim 14 is pending in this application. Claim 14 has been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-13 and 15-18 are hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

As an initial matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tubman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,569,038). The Office Action rejects claims 2-5, 8-11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tubman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,569,038).

In order to expedite prosecution of allowable claim 14 in this application, Applicants have decided to cancel claims 1-13, and 15-18 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Applicants do not, however, concede to the appropriateness of the Office Action's rejection of claims 1-13, and 15-18 and reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these rejected claims in a continuation application. No surrender of subject matter is intended by this amendment.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge all required fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account 11-0600.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael I. Angert
Reg. No. 46,522

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Kenyon & Kenyon
1500 K Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005-1257
Tel: (202) 220-4393
Fax: (202) 220-4201